VICTORY FLASHES

November 17, 1944
Number 48

Greetings:

This place is really hitting on all cylinders these days as we push along with the little chores that have become routine but that still require more time than we could find in a 24-hour day--even if we had a work day that long. At the moment, 18 hours is about all we can take so some of the "musts" just have to be delayed. This letter--so help us--is one thing that takes precedence--or did we tell you that before.

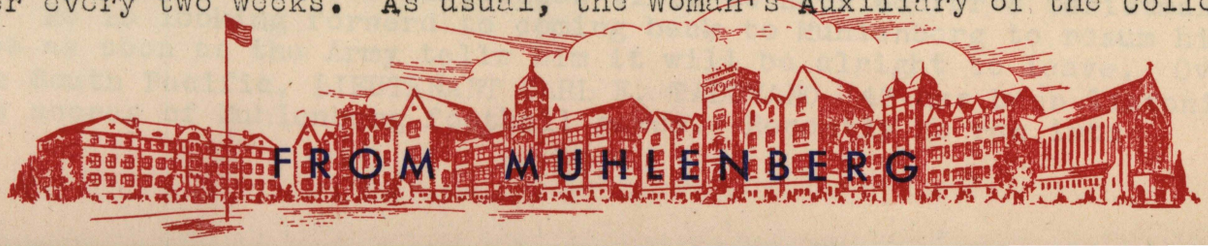
Well the football season is over and it wasn't too bad after all. At least, we can recall seasons when we had a good deal less to talk about after the final whistle had been sounded. This year we campaigned through a nine-game schedule and just in the middle of it we had to start practically from scratch because of the fact that the Marine unit, including members of the football team, was withdrawn at the end of the term that wound up with commencement on October 29. Out of those nine games we managed to get four wins. We defeated Franklin and Marshall 19 to 18 and 18 to 6, Swarthmore 33 to 6, and the Atlantic City Naval Training Station team 14 to 7. On the other side of the ledger, we lost to Bucknell 24 to 7 and 14 to 0, to Penn State 58 to 13, to Villanova 7 to 0, and finally to Princeton 16 to 6.

Soccer, still new at Muhlenberg, didn't fare nearly as well. Of the seven games played so far, one turned out to be a victory and another ended in a tie. We defeated Ursinus 3 to 2 and tied Bucknell in the second game with that school 2 to 2. The others we lost--Bucknell 21 to 1, Swarthmore 1 to 0, Temple 2 to 0, Penn State 2 to 0, the United States Naval Academy 7 to 0, and Lehigh 4 to 2. Tomorrow we play Princeton and then the season will be over.

Right now we're getting ready to talk about basketball. Those reports are the next you will be receiving. We open with Juniata College at home on the day after Thanksgiving and then campaign through the 26-game schedule that will take us up to February 24. All home games will be played in Rockne Hall. The wrestling season begins December 9 with Lehigh at home. The remaining five matches already scheduled are all away--with Princeton, West Point, Swarthmore, the Naval Academy, and Lehigh. There is a possibility that more matches may be added.

I've just come from a meeting where we talked about plans for Christmas. The traditional observances will be held--the annual carol service with Cedar Crest on December 15 at 11 a.m. and a party for the military and civilian students on the evening of December 21 with the carol sing around the Christmas tree on the front campus. That's just making good Dr. Tyson's promise that as we gather around the tree we will be thinking once again--as a unit--of all you fellows and of all of our Alumni everywhere.

Two weeks ago when our list of men in service seemed certain to cross the 1,600 mark we sent out an SOS for help in getting out this letter every two weeks. As usual, the Woman's Auxiliary of the College



picked up the signal and did something about it. This letter is being stapled together, folded and placed in envelopes by our usual student assistants, plus a half dozen members of the auxiliary. What's more, the auxiliary has promised to help do the job until you fellows come home again and service letters become a part of the Alumni Magazine.

Incidentally, we now have 1609 men on our service roster and we're still adding them. Thanks to you fellows for telling us about men who up to this point have not been receiving the letter. The complete list of Alumni in service will be printed in the next issue of the Alumni Magazine which goes to press next week. Meanwhile, we aren't going to append the usual list of names at the end of this letter--we'd have too many to add and too little space to give you the returns from this overflowing mail bag of ours. Here goes with that:

CAPTAIN JOHN W. DRY '39, who was with an ack-ack outfit in Italy, is now doing trial work with the Judge Advocate General's Division in Italy. CAPTAIN MALCOLM PARKER '35 has been moved to a new location in the Pacific area and is kept too busy with hospital care and routine to think about much else. He says his dental clinic is not like a Hamilton St. office but the men and materials in the clinic are adequate and that's the thing that counts after all.

Just two or three weeks ago PRIVATE MAURICE GEIGER '46 dropped in here for a visit. Yesterday we heard from him in a letter that came from Newfoundland. He says if you ask the natives more than three questions, they think you are inquisitive as hades. SERGEANT ERNIE FELLOWS '42, whose interesting letter on the Battles of France will be in the next issue of the Alumni Magazine, now is in Luxembourg, still fighting and still rooting for Muhlenberg. He said he heard the scores of the first three football games and wasn't "too disappointed because I realized the opposition must have been pretty good. I'm glad to see Muhlenberg still well represented in the field of sports, in spite of the result. The game is the thing, and I hope they continue."

PRIVATE HAROLD L. KNAUSS '42 has joined the ranks of Muhlenberg men overseas with a New York APO address. We also have heard again from PFC. RALPH W. BAGGER, now with a military police battalion in France. First Christmas greeting came through the other day--one of those clever Army jobs from LIEUTENANT NELSON GRAHAM '40. Where Nels is fighting, the boys will trim palm trees for Christmas. In an adjacent Pacific area, ENSIGN CHUCK MORAN and ENSIGN JACK CLIFFORD, both of the Class of 1943, have been made executive officers of their own PT boats. Chuck is the educational officer of his squadron and Jack the recreation officer. One of these news letters was the first piece of mail to reach LIEUTENANT ERNEST W. MOYER '15 when he got to France. SECOND LIEUTENANT RALPH D. HAAF '46, co-pilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress, has been awarded a second oak leaf cluster to his air medal.

Except for security reasons, which even a censor must follow in his own letters, LIEUTENANT CHARLIE TRINKLE '42 could tell us some good stories about the Pacific. When we heard from him last he was writing from aboard ship. An APO address from T/5 A. MARK SCHAPPEL '34 came through the other day. It appears that he is in the European theatre. LIEUTENANT (j.g.) KENNETH BACHMAN '39 is still in the original L.S.M. Flotilla, being used as a training flotilla. CORPORAL CARL K. WALTON '44 is with an infantry division in the European theatre. LIEUTENANT ROBERT H. SHORT '39 recently had a 30-day leave after some exciting experiences. After a raid over Sofia in November 1943, he was taken prisoner by the Bulgarian forces and held until last September. After his leave, he reported to the Army Air Force Reassignment Center in Atlantic City.

CORPORAL PAUL BIRK '46 is somewhere in the Asiatic-Pacific theatre and in a position where he can give us an advance tip on the exact time Santa Claus will leave for his annual visit to Haps Benfer's Christmas party. He is looking forward to coming back to Muhlenberg to resum his studies as soon as the Army tells him it will be alright to leave. Over in the South Pacific, LIEUTENANT CARL E. PADOVANO '43 has been listening to the scores of Muhlenberg football games. Recently he ran into

LIEUTENANT PETE GORGONE '43 and FRANK JAKOBOWSKI '43.

After living in a pup tent in France for five weeks, LIEUTENANT KENNETH DINGER '35 moved to a chateau near Paris. The interesting thing about it is that the chateau was built by Louis XIV (so Dinger tells us) for one of his (the King's) lady loves. Dinger spent only a week there before he boarded a freight train for Belgium. He is now assistant to the battalion surgeon somewhere in Holland. Every night except Sunday he teaches German to his fellow officers and finds his Pennsylvania Dutch and the German he learned at Muhlenberg handy things to have around the place. Located in a jungle in Assam (India) LIEUTENANT SAM OTTINGER '43 has had a Muhlenberg contact. He recently met Vernon Mellenberg '44 who is at a base 80 miles from Ottinger's station. Sam says he has a beautiful view of the mountains from his station and has opportunities to hunt and fish--just to break the monotony.

SERGEANT BROOKE SHOEMAKER '42, of the great team of Pierce and Shoemaker, went into Southern France with the assault troops and has seen Marseillaise, Toulon, Monte Carlo, Cannes, Nice, St. Raphael, and a few other places familiar to Dr. Corbiere. The thing he'd like most right now is to bump into his old side-kick Pierce who is over in India. We still think the Army made a great mistake in separating a combination like that. Brooke promises they will be at their best when they come back for the Victory Reunion.

CLAUDE KERSHNER '45 was injured in the line of duty and, according to word received by his parents, has a badly shattered left hand. The thing that seemed to bother him most was that he couldn't complete his 50 missions. Over in Italy, PRIVATE IRA KOPLIN '42 met LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANK M. BROWN '19. LIEUTENANT (j.g.) WILMER CRESSMAN '42 is still on the job as one of our floating correspondents in the South Pacific. Kenneth Keiter '46 dropped us a line from an Army transport while he was "wallowing through the trackless waters of a great ocean bound for some foreign shore"--a perfect example of a letter that will meet the approval of the censor. LIEUTENANT J.E. HARTMAN '24 crossed the Pacific with COMMANDER HENRY P. LOWENSTEIN, former commanding officer of the Navy V-12 unit here on the campus. The commander brought him up to date on events at Muhlenberg. Hartman now is the skipper of his own LST. After serving as an MP in London, SERGEANT CARL RITTER '30 is now on duty in Paris. Ultimately, he expects MP duty in Germany and then in Tokyo. While in England he became familiar with buzz bombs-read about it in his letter in the next issue of the Magazine.

There's quite a bit of mail from camps and bases in the United States to report on so--once again--here goes:

Note to LIEUTENANT ARTHUR FIERRO '44: These service letters are not perfumed. Any aroma you noticed must have been the result of our letters coming into contact with some others in your mail box. The same paragraph applies to any others who may have the same complaint. Incidentally, Fierro is now at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, California. PAUL SNYDER '45, stationed at a Marine Corps Air Station at El Centro, Calif., is getting ready to play baseball again. He just finished a season two months ago at his last base in Oregon. In the past year BIRCH DOERNBACH '46 has gone through Aviation Machinist Mate school at Norman, Oklahoma and gunnery school in Miami. Now he is at the Naval Air Station in Florida flying as an air crewman on a TBF.

"Muhlenberg is a great school and many of us will be on the way back after this is all over," writes CORPORAL ERNEST W. DUNLAP '46 from Fort Revere, Boston. HA2/c IRA G.T. WEISMANN '47 is attending the Navy hospital corps school at Bainbridge. From the Naval Training Station at Toledo, CHAPLAIN ARNOLD SPOHN '39 has been assigned to the Great Lakes Station. There's a tip for JIM CRAMPSEY '44, also on deck out there. LIEUTENANT GEORGE D. REICHWEIN '40 completed his medical internship at the Methodist Hospital in Philadelphia and resumed his military duties at the Carlisle Barracks. From there he will be assigned to Camp Gruber, Okla. LIEUTENANT HAROLD B. BENJAMIN '42 received his commission in August and now is aircraft engineering officer at Chico Field, Calif. His duties are to supervise all maintenance and inspections of ships.

DICK WEIDNER '43 has entered the Navy as an ensign and is stationed at the Radio Centimeter Wave Research laboratories in Washington. PRIVATE NORMAN H. THOMPSON '41 is attending the Central Signal Corps School at Camp Crowder, Mo. HERMAN MAYFARTH '45, an air cadet at Carlsbad, N.M., is looking forward to arriving on the East Coast in time to see that game in Madison Square Garden on December 16.

LIEUTENANT PERRY F. KENDIG (English Department Faculty) still the officer-in-charge of the Richmond Field Office of the Naval Intelligence Service, and John Ammarell '41, with the FBI in the same area, had a six-hour get-together a few weeks ago in the Commonwealth Club in Richmond. The fact that they are planning more sessions of the same kind indicates that it must have been good. They tried to recreate the atmosphere of Bob Moser's--if you know what we mean. That's a special note to LIEUTENANT CHUCK GARRETTSON '37. A/C HARRY K. NICHOLAS '44 is receiving more flight training at Chapel Hill, N.C. Richard H. Erb '46 completed his training as a "sup-erb" cable splicer and is putting his training into practice at Camp Crowder, Mo..

We hope you won't mind this little plug from Johnny Ammarell (just to bring him up again);

"Since I left Muhlenberg in June 1941 I've been working with fellows from every college in the country and I can truthfully say that I feel I received as good an education at Muhlenberg as the fellows that I worked with received from the schools they attended. I have never had the feeling that anything was missing in my educational background. During my training course in the FBI I had 16 weeks of some of the hardest courses that I've ever had to take but I never had any trouble in successfully passing the examinations."

.. DIXON HERWIG '31, a lieutenant in the Navy Dental Corps, completed his tour of duty at the Naval Training Station at Newport and was assigned to Quonset Point, R.I. LIEUTENANT HENRY K. BAUMAN '39 completed the Unit Gas Officers' Ground Course at the Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland. Schools keep PFC. JOHN HARAYDA '43 on the jump. He completed Clerk school in Texas, Leadership School in Illinois, and at the last report was at Surgical School at Fort Harrison, Ind. PFC. RAYMOND SMITH '44 left Camp Barkeley, Texas and came back to Yankee Land with an address at Fort Harrison, Ind. CORPORAL RAYMOND SCHOLL '46 completed his training on B-24 Liberators at Mount Home in September and, when we heard from him last was at Langley Field, Va. CORPORAL HOWARD GOHEEN '38 is in the Army at Amarillo, Texas with PRIVATE JIM FREDERICK '43. A Muhlenberg news letter lying on a bunk was their introduction. CORPORAL ROBERT KRIMMEL '44 is brushing up on his southern accent at the Smith-Reynolds Airport at Winston-Salem, N.C. He is on duty at the weather station there.

Before LIEUTENANT (j.g.) JOHN H. WAGNER went to Florida he had a chance to brush up on his contacts as Alumni Secretary in Norfolk, Va. He reports having met LIEUTENANT (j.g.) GEORGE BERGHORN '42 and his lovely wife, ENSIGN JOHN PSIAKI '43 without wife (he doesn't have any as yet), LIEUTENANT (j.g.) WALLACE WEBSTER '34, LIEUTENANT (j.g.) BOB HARNED '38 and LIEUTENANT (j.g.) BILL BOONE '33 and his equally lovely wife. That was a good night's work for any Alumni Secretary on leave of absence. PRIVATE ROBERT BLANCK '47 has completed the course for radio mechanics at Truax Field, Wisconsin, and now is taking a course in electronics at Chanute Field, Ill.

We've rambled on at great lengths today and Elsie tells me that all I can say is that I hope you'll get your Thanksgiving turkey and really enjoy it. Some of you will definitely be eating turkey that one of our secretaries--Eleanor Rutz--helped raise out on the Rutz Farm. If you see a label be sure you tell us about it. PERRY SCOTT, just back from England, and JOE WALKER '43, about to go there, just dropped in and join us in wishing you all continued good luck.

Sincerely,

Gordon

Gordon B. Fister
For the Alumni Office